The Present

STATE

OF THE

PRISON

OF

LUDGATE

IN

LONDON.

DEATH

OF THE

PRISON

OF

LONDON

IN

THE Preſent STATE OF THE PRISON OF LUDGATE.

Fully Diſcovering

All its Cuſtoms, Priviledges, and Advantages, whereby it exceeds all other Priſons, and particularly ſhewing what Treatment the Priſoners meet with from their firſt Entrance to their Diſcharge.

To which are added,

Uſeful REMARKS and Pertinent OBSERVATIONS on the former State thereof.

Interſpers'd

With divers pleaſant Relations of the Humours of the Priſoners of both Sexes therein, with reſpect to their way of Living, Marriages, Burials, and manner of Government among them: Together with an Account of divers Impoſitions and Innovations lately introduc'd, worthy the Conſideration of all Freemen of this City.

The whole very entertaining as well as uſeful; and neceſſary to be read by all Perſons who would be inform'd of the Nature of Confinement in General, whereby they will perceive that Impriſonment is not ſo exceeding Dreadful as ſome imagine, nor ſo ſlight a Misfortune as the ſevere part of Mankind account it.

Humbly Dedicated to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Court of Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Common Council of this City.

LONDON:

Printed for and ſold by *A. Baldwin*, at the *Oxford Arms*

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Court of Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Common Council of *London*.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WIth all due Submiſſion and Reſpect, the following Sheets, being an Account of the preſent State of Ludgate, *(according to the beſt Obſervations and Informations that could be procured) are preſented to your View and Conſideration: To whom the Care of maintaining the*

the Privileges of every Free-man, even when reduc'd to the unhappy Condition of a Priſoner, doth moſt properly belong, and who are inveſted with Authority to inſpect, and rectify all Incroachments that have, or may be made thereupon: That ſo the Benefits which our Anceſtors (who demonſtrated the eſteem they had for the Quality of a Freeman of this Honourable City, by oppropriating ſuch Privileges to Ludgate, *as rendred it preferable to all the Priſons in* England) *have obtained, may not be alienated, or the charitable intent of thoſe well-diſpoſed Perſons*

fruſtrated

fruſtrated, who in tender Compaſſion to the Miſeries of their fellow Citizens, falling under ſuch Calamities, have, or may beſtow Gifts or Legacies for their Relief.

The greateſt Motive that induces the Author to hope you will favourably accept what he here moſt humbly lays before you, is, that your Intereſt as well as Honour is concern'd, to exert your Authority in detecting and regulating the Abuſes therein hinted at; ſince it is evident, that the ſtricteſt Precaution does not always ſecure Citizens (even of the higheſt Rank) from falling into Adverſity.

ſity. Or at leaſt, if this Gene-
ration may think themſelves
ſafe, no Man is able ſo far to
warrant the ſucceſs of the fol-
lowing, as that none of them
may be reduced to the Miſery
of Confinement. Which that
your lateſt Poſterity may never
have occaſion to experience, is
the hearty deſire of your humble
Servant and fellow Citizen

Philopolites.

The Present STATE OF LUDGATE, &c.

Of the Foundation.

LUDGATE, one of the Western Gates of the famous City of *London*, suppos'd to receive its Name from King *Lud*, as built by him, *Anno Christi* 66. was made a Prison for Freemen *Anno* 1377. Sir *Nicholas Brember* being Mayor, which was confirm'd in the Year 1382, by a Common Council in the *Guild-Hall*: By which it was ordained, That all Freemen of the said City should for Debt, Trespasses, Accompts, and Con-

tempts, be impriſoned in *Ludgate*. In th
3d of *Edw.* IV. Sir *Matthew Philips* bein
Mayor, Dame *Agnes Foſter*, Relict of S
Stephen Foſter, Fiſhmonger, (who had bee
Mayor ſome Years before) for the Comfo
and Relief of all the Poor Priſoners, pr
cured an Eſtabliſhment of certain Articl
in Common Council, (*viz.*) That the ne
Works, then lately ediſy'd by the ſam
Dame *Agnes*, for the enlarging of the P
ſon of *Ludgate*, ſhould be had and tak
as a part and parcel of the ſaid Priſon
Ludgate; ſo that both the Old and Ne
Work aforeſaid, be one Priſon, Go
Keeping and Charge for evermore. Whe
they were to pay nothing for Water a
Lodging, according to an Inſcription
a Copper Plate mentioned by *Stow*.

For Water and Lodging here's nothing to pay
As the Keeper will anſwer at great Doomſday

Which ſaid Copper Plate is reported
have hung there in the Memory of ſo
Perſons living, though not now to
ſeen.

Thus much for its Foundation. N
to its Deſcription as follows:

The Deſcription.

THE Gate riſes with a ſtately Stone Arch for the paſſage of Carriages, *&c.* on either ſide of which is a Poſtern Gate for foot Paſſengers. The Frontiſpiece on the Eaſt-ſide againſt St. *Paul's*, is adorned with the Statues of King *Lud* and his two Sons, over which is the Arms of Queen *Elizabeth*, whoſe Statue adorns it on the Weſt ſide alſo fronting *Fleet-ſtreet*, and in whoſe 28th Year it was repaired at the common Charge of the City, amounting to 1500 *l.* The Roof is covered with Lead, from whence ariſes a Turret, wherein is a Clock with two Dials, anſwering each Front. On the South-ſide within, adjoyning thereto, is the building, erected by the aforeſaid Dame *Agnes Foſter*, covered with Lead alſo, on which the Priſoners have Liberty to walk for their Refreſhment; this Part of the Priſon is now called the Common-Side; of which more hereafter.

Having viewed the outſide, now let us enter; which we may do by a large Door joyning to the Southern Poſtern, whence aſcending 6 Steps, the firſt thing obſervable is a large Box on the Right Hand, over which is a Board with this Inſcription painted on it.

These are to satisfy all that are willing to giv their Charity to this House, that the Mone is put into this Box, which hath Thr Locks; one Key being kept by the Keepe another by the Master of the Box, and th third by the Assistant of the Day; and n Money to be taken out without their mutua Consent, to be justly destributed among th Prisoners.

Opposite to this on the Left, is a litt Door which opens into the Office, so called becaufe all Prifoners are there received b the Deputy-Keeper, or Turn-key, and the Names, with the Day of their commencin Prifoners, are, or ought to be there entred in a Book for that purpofe, as will appea when we come to fpeak of the Orders o the Houfe.

Within this Place, is a large Room fo People to drink in, which of late hath bor rowed the Name of the Office alfo, from its near Situation thereto; but formerly called the Rules, when there was a Paffag to it from the common Prifon, (which i now fhut up) being then free for all th Prifoners to have recourfe to, at all time of the Day; where was kept a good Fire to their no fmall Benefit in the Winter Sea fon. But fuch is the Ingenuity of the pre

fen

ſent Deputy-Keeper, that he has abridg'd them of that Priviledge, in order to make a Perquiſite to the Turn-keys Office, by laying a Tax of One Half-penny extraordinary on every full Pot of Drink more than is paid in the Cellar; which the Poor Priſoners, or their Friends that come to viſit them, muſt pay, for enjoying the benefit of drinking with them in that Place, tho' they can have much better Beer from Abroad, for One Penny in a full Pot leſs: Beſides which, the Turn-key has the advantage of ſelling other diſtill'd Liquors (which he does in unſealed Meaſures) to reimburſe himſelf for the Money he gives for his Place; he was wont formerly to be paid a Salary by the Deputy-Keeper, who by this contrivance makes a Penny now of that Service, which before he was wont to pay Wages for. To this Room any of the Priſoners are admitted, by being let out at the Hatch (or Door of the Priſon that is kept always lock'd) provided they call plentifully for Liquors, where they are under no Lock, but have the opportunity (if they are good Cuſtomers) to ſtand below at the outmoſt Door of the Priſon, and ſpeak to their Friends as they paſs by; upon which hangs a pleaſant Tale, *viz.*

About Midſummer laſt, a certain Priſoner, whoſe Debts were ſomewhat conſiderable,

ſiderable, having firſt privately ſent away what Cloaths and other Effects he had in the Priſon, came into this Office on a *Sunday* Morning between 9 and 10 a Clock; and inviting the Turn-keys and the Priſoners preſent, to Breakfaſt on a Diſh of ſous'd Mackarel that he had procured; while they were all buſily employed in eating it, he took the opportunity of walking off, and has never been heard of ſince, nor was he ever miſſed till after Four in the Afternoon. Hereupon, the Door of the Leads was ſhut up almoſt a Fortnight, to the great annoyance of the Priſoners in that hot Seaſon, on pretence, that he had made his eſcape over the Houſes, in order (as may be preſumed) that the Deputy-Keeper might make the eaſier Terms with the Sheriffs, being perhaps not willing to let them know what Opportunities he gives the Priſoners, by letting them out of the Hatch, for the ſake of his own Intereſt.

The next thing obſervable is the Hatch, where the Under-Turn-key continually attends, which opens into the Priſon; where, as ſoon as you enter, by turning on the Right Hand, you come into a large Room called the *Lumbry*, where juſt within the Door on the Left is the Stocks, for puniſhing Offenders; of which more when we come to treat of the Government of the

he Houſe. At a large Window ſtands one r other of the Priſoners all Day, begging Money of ſuch as paſs by in *Black-Fryars*, ear to which Window is a Table, where he Steward, *&c.* takes account 3 times a Day of what Money is given into the Boxes; of which more hereafter.

A little within the Door on the Right, re the Stairs leading to the Cellar, where Drink, Tobacco, *&c.* are ſold, *but no Truſt y Retail*; that is to ſay, He that will Drink plentifully and entice others to ex-ſs, ſhall have Credit; but he that asks in Neceſſity, ſhall be refuſed a ſingle int of Beer to relieve him. Over againſt he Cellar Stairs, is a large Ciſtern ſup-ly'd with Water from the *Thames*, which ot many Years ſince, was ſtored with pring Water, according to the Will of he Donor, Dame *Agnes Foſter* aforeſaid. A little from hence is an Iron Grate, which pens into the South Poſtern under the Gate, where ſome Priſoner begs alſo Mo-ey of ſuch as paſs by there; near to which is the Houſe of Office for the Men Priſoners. In a corner by the Cellar Stairs s a handſom Stair-Caſe, enlightned from bove by a large Sky-light; where aſcend-ng 11 or 12 Steps, you may obſerve a ittle Room over the Poſtern, called the XVIII. ſometimes uſed for a Drinking Room,

ad-

adjoyning to which are two other Room
now occupied by the Cellar-Keeper; bu
formerly, when the Incomes of the Priſo
were not improved to ſo great an heigh
they ſerved for a Lodging for the Deputy
Keeper.

A few Steps higher is the firſt Floo
where as ſoon as you are aſcended, a Doo
opens into a large place called the *Whi*
Room, furniſhed with a long Table an
Benches, and a large Chimney, where
very *Sunday* is made Broth of Chumps
Beef, being a certain allowance to the Pr
ſon, hereafter to be mentioned; of whic
Broth every Priſoner, after paying his Due
may, if he pleaſe, partake.

In this Room, according to the Order
Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, o
the firſt *Tueſday* in every Month is an El
ction of *Steward*, and other Officers, fo
the Government of the Priſon; and he
the ſaid *Steward* and *Aſſiſtants* meet
diſpatch the Publick Affairs; of whic
more under the Head of Government.

Here hang the Orders of the Lord Ma
or and Court of Aldermen, fairly ingroſs
and ſet in Frames, for an Ornament to th
Room, according to an expreſſion the Tur
key not long ſince let fall, who indeed w
much in the right, inaſmuch as (like a
old Almanack) they are at preſent ſom
wh

at out of date. Copies of which Orders as followeth.

Fees to be taken by the Keeper of Ludgate *and the Turn-keys under him, allowed of and confirmed at a Court of Aldermen, holden the 19th Day of* January 1686. *in the Mayoralty of Sir* Robert Jefferies *Knt. Lord Mayor of the City of* London, *as followeth.*

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
p. At the coming in of every Priſoner to the Turn-key	00	01	00
o the Officer that goes with him thither	00	00	02
o the Keeper for every Priſoner's Diſcharge	00	02	00
or all Actions and Writs againſt any Priſoner Twelve Pence only, and not Twelve Pence for every Action, and Two and Six Pence for every Writ, as formerly he took	00	01	00
he Keeper finding and providing Sheets every Month for every Bed, ſuch Priſoners that lye therein are to pay to the Chamberlain, for waſhing them, every Month between them, Eight Pence *per* Month, and no more, and not each Priſoner that lies therein to pay Eight Pence	00	00	08

C The

The Keeper finding and providing Beds, Bedding, Mats and Cords, Sheets, Blankets and Coverlets, the Prisoners to pay him for the best Lodging *per* Night	00 00 0
For the second Lodging *per* Night	00 00 0
But when the Prisoners find their own Bed and Bedding, which the Keeper is in no Case to hinder, the Prisoner is only to pay Three Pence *per* Week for Bed Room, and no more.	00 00 0
Or for Chamber Room, Four Pence at the most *per* Week, and not above two to lye in a Bed.	00 00 0
If the Prisoner by his inability can go no further than a Couch, he is to pay only one Penny *per* Week for Chamber Room, and no more.	00 00 0
And the like for Lamps and Candles, which the Keeper is to provide, One Penny *per* Week and no more	00 00 0

The Keeper shall not presume to tak
any other Fees, upon any pretence, de
mand

nand, or allowance whatſoever, for Exe-
ution Money, Action Money, or Writ
Money.

GIBSON.

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ules, Orders, and Ordinances, to be obſerv'd by the Keeper of Ludgate, *ſettled at a Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, holden on* Tueſday *the* 18*th Day of* May 1694. *in the time of Mayoralty of Sir* William Aſhurſt, *Knt. Lord Mayor of the City of* London, *as followeth*, viz.

THAT the Keeper upon every firſt *Tueſday* in the Month, (according former Cuſtom) order the Bell to be ng, between the Hours of Ten and welve in the Forenoon, for the conve-ng all the Priſoners in the White Room, here a Steward for the Houſe, or Maſter the Box, and alſo an Out-Steward with ven Aſſiſtants, ſhall be choſen for the onth enſuing by the Majority of Voices.

II. If the Maſter Keeper neglect, or re-ſe to call the Priſoners together, as be-re directed, then the Steward or Aſſiſt-

ants ſhall call them together, between th Hours of Twelve and Two of the ſam Day, to elect the ſaid Officers, which ſha be as valid as if the ſaid Keeper were pr ſent.

III. That the Tapſter, or Cellar-Ma be uncapable of being choſen into an Office,

IV. That the Keeper, or Turn-key, giv account in Writing to the Overſeers, St ward, or Aſſiſtants of the Priſon, of all t Charities or annual Legacies that are pa for the Relief or Releaſe of Priſoners, the time when and place where they a to be receiv'd, that ſo they may be entr down in their Books of Legacies; tog ther with other Gifts or Legacies, whi ſhall hereafter be ſent or paid, for the R lief or Releaſe of Priſoners. That all ſu Gifts and Legacies, if paid at the Priſo be received in the preſence of the *Stewa* and two of the Aſſiſtants, or Overſee and that the Gifts and Legacies be imm diately entred in their Books, which ſh be peruſed by the Overſeers as oft as th think fit.

V. That when any Charity is ſent f the Releaſe of any Priſoner, the Keep

or his Deputy, ſhall conſult with the Overſeers, Steward, and Aſſiſtants, who are the fitteſt Objects of that Charity, and whom they agree upon ſhall be propoſed for it.

VI. That the Keeper have a Book, wherein ſhall be entred the Day and Year that any Priſoner did commence a Priſoner, and the Keeper ſhall upon diſcharge of any Priſoner, give him a Bill under his Hand of the time he has been there; what Rent and Fees are due, and when diſcharg'd; and give an acquittance for the ſame: And ſuch Book of Accompts kept by the ſaid Keeper, he ſhall give leave that the Steward and Aſſiſtants, may once every Month peruſe the ſame, if they deſire it.

VII. That the Cellar-man, or Tapſter, ſhall keep a Book, wherein ſhall be ſet down what he truſteth every Priſoner, and what Money he receives for the ſame, and that upon every Election Day, the ſaid Book be peruſed by the Steward and Aſſiſtants, that the poor Priſoners may not be impoſed upon.

VIII. That the Door of the Priſon be opened at Seven a Clock, from *Lady-Day* to *Michaelmas*; and from *Michaelmas* to *Lady-*

Lady-Day, at Eight of the Clock in the Morning; and that conſtant Attendance be given by the Turn-keys all the Day, that all ſuch as come to Viſit and Relieve the Priſoners, may have Liberty to come in and go out, excepting the time of Divine Service on the Lord's-Day. That all Strangers depart by Nine of the Clock at Night.

IX. That the Keeper find Candles for the uſe of the Hatch and Office.

X. That the Keeper pay all Duties of the Pariſh, and the Scavengers for carrying away the Soil of the Priſon, that the Priſoners be not impoſed upon to pay that Duty.

XI. That no Priſoner diſcharged from the Sheriff, if releaſed by Charity, be permitted to run on the Score more than 4 *d.* *per* Day.

XII. That the Priſoners may have Liberty to ſend for their Drink Abroad, and not be check'd or hindred by the Keeper, or any Servant under him.

XIII. That every Priſoner at their coming into the Priſon, or at the next Election

Day

ay at the furtheſt, ſhall produce the opy of his Freedom, or ſuch other Teſti-ony as ſhall be ſatisfactory, which if he fuſe to do, upon complaint made to the eeper, he ſhall be obliged to remove him on ſuch Complaint, unleſs he be a Bene-'d Clergy-man.

XIV. That no Arrears of Chamber-ent for ſuch Priſoners that are at large, ore than for one Month, ſhall be ſatisfied any Charity given to the Priſoners, nor that one Month, without the Conſent the Steward, Overſeers and Aſſiſtants.

XV. That the Cellar be ſhut by Nine of Clock at Night, and that the Cellar-n, or Tapſter, do not after that time ertain any of the Priſoners in his Cham-, or elſewhere.

G. I B S O N.

On the ſame Floor, is a Room ſomewhat ger than the *White Room*, called the *wer-Ward*, wherein is a large Chimney, ng a Lodging Room for Priſoners, fur-hed with Six Bedſteds; but the Beds d Bedding for the moſt part worn out. e Ceiling being lofty, with large Win-

dows

dows at each end, makes it accounted th beſt Ward in the Houſe.

Aſcending a few Steps from this Floo is a Paſſage into the *Maſter-ſide*; of whic by and by. The firſt that preſents on th ſecond Floor is the *Chappel Ward*, ſo calle from its near Situation thereto, which alſo provided with a Chimney and Six Be ſteds; but the Bedding quite out of repai Adjoyning to this Ward, is the *Chappe* which is very lofty and capacious, furniſ ed with all things ſuitable, and kept ve clean and decent by the preſent Churc Warden, who beſtows much Care a Pains in waſhing and beautifying it wi Greens and Flowers, according to the Se ſon. At one end is a convenient Galle for the Women, into which they co by a little Door on the next Floor. He Prayers are read twice every Day by o of the Lay Priſoners, if there be no Clerg man Priſoner, who has a Salary of 4 *d.* Day allowed him out of the Boxes for th Service; and every *Sunday* in the Aft noon a Sermon is preached by a Miniſ appointed by the City for that purpo On the ſame Floor is a little Place cal the *Odd-mens Room*, with three Beds in and a handſome Window into *Ludg ſtreet*, but no Chimney.

Going up another Pair of Stairs, we me firſt to the *Charity Ward*, ſo called, cauſe the Men lodged therein, are moſtly ch as beg the Charity of Paſſengers at e Boxes that hang out, as aforeſaid. ere the Lodgings are much the ſame as fore, and without any Chimney, where- re they make uſe of that in the *White oom* to dreſs their Proviſions, and have lf a Buſhel of Coals allowed them once Week in the Winter, out of the Houſe ock for that end. This Room is the partment of *Monſieur Shawney*, an imagi- ry Bugbear, who exerciſes a great Au- ority over Delinquents for non-payment Flooridge (which is a due of 18 *d.* aimed by cuſtom of every new Priſo- r, to be expended among his fellow ard-mates at his firſt coming in, and if dged in the *Maſters-ſide* half a Crown) id for other petty Offences, by ſecuring eir Coats, Hats, *&c.* till paid: All which officiates by a Deputy, who to be ſure unknown to the Offender, whereof, if complains to *Monſieur Shawney*, he can ope for no more redreſs, than if he made pplication to a *Bartholomew* Baby. Next is Ward is the Entrance into the *Womens allery* aforeſaid, and next to that a little ark place formerly the *Chamberlains Store- oom*, but now not uſed for that purpoſe;

for as that unhappy Wag that had hid th
Key of the Houſe of Office, told his M
ſtreſs when ſhe had lock'd up the Cu
board, there was no need of it, ſo the
being now no Sheets, nor ſcarce any Be
ding belonging to the Houſe, the *Cha*
berlain has no occaſion for a *Store-Roo*
Here are two Men lodged upon a fe
Rags, for which (no doubt) the Deput
Keeper will exact 14 *d.* *per* Week of eac
of them, if ever they ſhould live to obta
their Liberty, as well as he does at preſe
of them, whoſe Lodging has been litt
better.

Aſcending a few Steps higher, is ano
ther paſſage into the *Maſters-ſide*, whic
we alſo leave, and come to the uppermo
Floor, where the firſt is the *Womens War*
which hath two Apartments; in one
which is a Chimney: They have alſo ha
a Buſhel of Coals *per* Week allowed them
and one Candle every Night; the Furn
ture is very mean, ſeveral of them lodgin
on the Floor, on ſuch mean Bedding
their own as they have procured fro
abroad: Within the Ward is a Neceſſar
Houſe peculiar to themſelves. Next t
this is the *Upper Ward*, whoſe Ceiling be
ing low would render it leſs commodiou
than other Wards, did not its Situatio
allow it more Air than the reſt, and af

for

ford a pleaſant Proſpect into the County of *Surry*. Their Beds and Bedding are much of the ſame ſort with the reſt, wherefore I ſhall in ſhort ſatisfy the Reader, that here is ſcarce a Bed in the Houſe (except ſome few which the Deputy-Keeper has withheld from Poor Priſoners for non payment of Rent) which is worthy half the Rate mentioned in the Order of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, conſidering a Man may have tolerable good Lodging for 2 *d. per* Night at divers Inns n moſt of the conſiderable Roads in *England*, beſides, there have been no Sheets belonging to the Houſe for ſeveral Years. n this Ward are two Chimneys.

Next this Ward is a Pair of Stairs going p to the Leads, being a large Platform lmoſt ſquare over the two laſt mentioned Wards, covered with Oaken Planks, where he Priſoners often (in the Day time) reeate themſelves at Nine-pins, and other Diverſions, to mitigate the uneaſineſs of heir Confinement, from whence alſo they ave a proſpect above 20 Miles to the outh, and almoſt as far to the Weſt, and an look at *Hampſtead* and *Highgate*, tho' hey cannot come at either. Out of theſe tairs is a Paſſage into the Leads over the ate alſo, but ſeldom open, nor is the Door

to the other Leads open but in the Day time only.

The *Maſters-ſide*, which is over the Gate has its Entrance by aſcending a few Steps from the firſt Floor of the Common-ſide (as before meention'd) which leads into a Paſſage ſomewhat dark, where are four Rooms, with a Bed and a Chimney in each Room; of which the Priſoners that are lodged therein keep the Keys, and have the conveniency of privacy therein for themſelves and Chamber-fellows only. At the further end of this Paſſage, is a large Room call'd the *Green Room*, wherein formerly the Priſoners, tho' lodg'd in the Wards, had the liberty of working at their ſeveral Trades, it being a capacious place with good Lights, but now divided into two Apartments, and converted to the Deputy-Keeper's private uſe, tho' he is generally a non Reſident there; which by the way, muſt be of fatal Conſequence to the Priſoners, if any caſualty of Fire or ſuch like Accident ſhould happen among them, the Doors being lock'd upon them and neither Keeper or Turn-key within call to relieve them upon ſuch a Neceſſity. Aſcending from hence by a leſſer Pair of Stairs, you come to the ſecond Floor where are Six Rooms, furniſhed as the Floor below. Theſe are all the Rooms be-

longing

onging to the *Maſters-ſide*; from whence, y a few Steps, you come to the other aſſage from the *Common-ſide*; where, go-ng up a few Steps higher, you find ano-her Floor, where are two Rooms oppo-ite to each other; the one call'd *Clap —ſe* Hall, the other *Puppy's Parlour*: Theſe are reckon'd into the *Common-ſide*, ho' over the *Maſters*; on this Floor alſo is he *Clock Room*, and above all, another *Ne-eſſary Houſe*.

Of the Officers, &c. *belonging to the* Priſon.

HAving deſcribed the Houſe, the next thing is to ſhew by whom it is in-abited. The proper Inhabitants then of his large Structure, are ſuch unhappy reemen of *London*, as by Caſualties or Miſmanagement of their Affairs, having llen into the Hands of their ſevere Cre-itors, do take ſanctuary there, by virtue f a Writ called *Duci facias*, in hopes to nd there ſome alleviation of their Misfor-ne; this Priſon having the report of the eſt in *England*, and indeed not undeſerv-

edly,

edly, all things conſider'd, and were ther not ſo many Abuſes crept in it, contrary (a may be preſumed) to the intent of thoſ that firſt provided it for that uſe, it woul undoubtedly merit that Character in a hig degree.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayo of *London*, being Protector of the Liber ties and Priviledges of the Freemen there of, and the benefit of removing to this Pri ſon, peculiar to them and none elſe (ex cept benefic'd Clergymen) it is at his di poſal to appoint a Keeper thereof. Ac cordingly in the Mayoralty of Sir *Thoma Pilkington*, the Place being vacant, he be ſtowed it upon his Son, who occupies i to this Day.

But the Execution of the Office being beneath a Perſon of his Quality, he ſub ſtitutes under him a Deputy Keeper, wh pays him a certain yearly Rent, and give Security for his Place; who, to reimburſ himſelf, has the benefit of the Lodgings and other Fees appropriated to him; whic he has not been wanting to improve to hi beſt advantage, having enjoy'd the Offic firſt of Turn-key, and ſince of Deputy Keeper about 20 Years. Beſides which he has a pretty Income from his Pidgeons which are Priſoners, who rather than b confin'd to the prejudice of their Credit

Contrac

Contract with him to pay 18 *d.* or 2 *s. per* Week, as they can agree, and about a Guinea in Hand, for their Liberty, giving good Security for their forth-coming, if the Adversary shall sue them to Execution. From these Advantages, together with the Benefit of the Cellar, it may be modestly computed, that he may honestly make his Place worth five or 600 *l. per Annum*, tho' some are of Opinion he makes a great deal more of it.

Under the Deputy-Keeper is a Turnkey, who was formerly wont to receive a Salary of about 50 *l. per Ann.* but now the Case is otherwise, as has been before related. He appoints another under him to attend all Day at the Hatch, who is commonly one of the Prisoners, to whom he allows about 6 *d. per* Day. These are all the Officers without Doors; besides which, the Deputy-Keeper retains several under him as Messengers to fetch in his Pidgeons, if they do not keep touch with their Week-Payments, and for other occasions best known to himself.

Of the Officers within Doors.

OUR Wise Ancestors the Magistrates of this Honourable City, when the Quality of a Freeman thereof, was of some

account

account, having regard to the benefit o
their Posterity, and foreseeing that thoug
a Man may perhaps climb to the top o
Fortunes Wheel, yet himself, or some o
his Children, may by some unforeseen Ac
cident, (which all humane Precaution i
not able to prevent) be tumbled down s
low, that he may have occasion to mak
Ludgate his Refuge; and considering (n
doubt) that all Mankind are subject t
failings, and that Prison-Keepers, or thei
Deputies especially, are for the most par
a sort of voracious Animals, apt to pre
upon their own Kind, when in thei
power; took all possible Care to preven
any Impositions that such Keepers or Turn
keys might introduce to the prejudice o
those Freemen, as should have the misfor
tune to fall into their Hands, by commit
ting the civil Government of the Hous
within-door to the direction of the Priso
ners themselves, impowering them to elec
certain Officers for that end, who migh
defend them from any Inroads, the Keep
ers or any under them should make upo
their Priviledges; which Power you find
renewed by the Order made in the Mayor
alty of Sir *William Ashurst*, and presented
to the Readers View, in the Description
of the *White Room*, before-mentioned. By
virtue of this Order, (the Reader may
perceive

rceive) it is in the power of the Priſo-
ers to chuſe their own Officers, whereby
ey may, if they are not infatuated, pre-
nt all the Impoſitions that any Keeper,
o' never ſo baſely inclin'd, can attempt
on them. The Officers allowed to be
ely choſen by the Priſoners are theſe fol-
wing, *viz.*

A Steward, or Maſter of the Boxes.
Seven Aſſiſtants, or Conſtables;
And an Out-Steward.

f which in their Order.

The Steward, or Maſter of the Boxes,

Ought to be a Man of Integrity, in whom
e Priſoners may confide: His Office be-
g to receive and diſpoſe of all the chari-
ble Benevolencies of well-diſpoſed People,
at beſtow them for the Benefit of the
oor Priſoners, as well Legacies as other
ifts; and with the Conſent of the Majo-
y of the Aſſiſtants, to defend them in
eir Rights and Priviledges, and from
y Inſults of the Keeper, or any under
m, by an appeal to the Lord Mayor
d Court of Aldermen on their behalf.
t if on the contrary, he be a Man of
different Principles, and liable to be drawn
er to the Intereſt of the *Hatch*, (by which
rm the Reader is deſired to obſerve is

meant the Keeper's Intereſt, it being a P
ſon Phraſe) his Office which was intend
purely for the Benefit of the Poor Pri
ners, may (like the beſt Wines corrupt
affording the ſharpeſt Vinegar) turn
their greateſt diſadvantage; of which
preſent *Steward* is a manifeſt Inſtance
yond Contradiction. But to proceed,
Office being as aforeſaid, to receive a
diſburſe, he is conſtantly to attend eve
Day at the Hours of 12, 5 and 9, to ta
in the Boxes hung out to receive Peop
Charity; which are five, two of them
mention'd before; the other three are hu
one at the Priſon Door without, anot
at the Entrance of the Northern Poſt
from St. *Pauls*, and the third in the Paſſ
from that Poſtern into the Gate-way, wh
laſt three are taken in at 9 at Nights o
At the Hours aforeſaid, he takes acco
of the Money in the Boxes, and after
ving given a certain part of it to each M
that begs, he places the reſt to accou
With which, and what other Money
receives, he is to relieve the Neceſſities
the Poor Priſoners, by allowing them
certain Portion daily, which they come
receive of him at 12 at Noon: He li
wiſe provides Mops, Brooms, Pails,
which are diſtributed as they have oc
ſion, to the ſeveral Wards and Chamb

r their neceſſary Uſes; for which and her Services belonging to his Office, (of hich we ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak in e ſequel of the Diſcourſe) he pays him- lf every Day 12 *d.* which is allow'd him his Accounts. The next are the

Aſſiſtants or Conſtables,

Of which there are 7 choſen; that is, e to ſerve every Day in the Week in his rn. His buſineſs is always to attend up- the Steward for that Day he ſerves, to ke account of what the Steward receives d disburſes; for which end he keeps a ok as well as he, and ought to be pre- nt at all times when any Money comes to the Priſon, to be a Check upon both eward and Keeper, that ſo the Priſoners ay not be defrauded, as appears by the rders afore-mention'd. He is obliged alſo ſee the Orders of the Houſe duly exe- ted, for ſuppreſſing all uproars, and pu- hing Miſdemeaners, by committing the fenders to the Stocks, and ſuch like; and any Perſon be refractory, and will not bmit patiently, he may command the harity Men to his Aſſiſtance; for which, d ſome other Services, he is allowed 12 *d.* that Day he ſerves, and 3 *d.* of any Pri- ner that comes in on that Day, as a Per-

quiſite beſides his Salary. The next Offic is that of

Out-Steward.

His Buſineſs is to collect all the Rent and other Gifts that are paid Abroad, an take Care of divers other Matters whic are not in the power of the other Steward (by reaſon of his Confinement) to perform for which cauſe this Office was wont to b executed formerly by ſome Priſoner, wh had the Liberty of the Hatch; but nov by the Turn-key, who is alſo Chamberlain he having occupied it for a long time, ther being now no notice taken of ſuch an Offi cer on the Election Day, tho' expreſs'd i the Order of Lord Mayor, *&c.* before-men tioned. The Profit he makes of it is be known to himſelf.

Church-warden.

Beſides theſe three Offices, according t the direction of the ſaid Order, the Church warden is alſo choſen by a majority o Voices on the Election Day: His Buſine is to look after the Chappel, and keep i clean; to give notice to the Scavenger t ring the Bell at the Hours of Prayer, fo which he is allowed about 4 *d. per* Day

and 3 *d.* of every new Priſoner at his coming in; beſides which, he has a ſmall weekly allowance from the Steward, for winding up and keeping the Clock in Order, which (tho' but ſmall) is an Impoſition on the Priſoners, for doubtleſs the Government of the City never intended, that Charge ſhould be defrayed out of the Poor Priſoner's Charity Money, there being a Perſon appointed generally to look after ſuch Publick Concerns, who receives a Salary of the City for that end, who ought to pay him, and not the Priſoners.

The reſt of the Offices are at the diſcretion of the Steward and Aſſiſtants, which are theſe following:

The Reader.
The Running Aſſiſtant.
The Kettle-Pot Man; And
The Box-Men.

The Reader

Is commonly made choice of according to his Qualifications; he muſt be one that Reads with a good grace, and ſhould have ſome Knowledge in ſinging, for he officiates the Clark's place as well as his own; he reads Prayers twice every Day, except *Saturdays* and *Sundays* in the Afternoon, at which latter time the Miniſter that preaches

preaches, performs that Duty himſelf. His Salary is mentioned before; to which he has the addition of 2 *d.* from every new Priſoner.

The Running Aſſiſtant

Is always to be within Call of the Hatch, that if any Stranger come to inquire for any Priſoner, he may be ready to call them, or direct to their Lodgings, that ſo the Priſoners may not be prevented of ſeeing and ſpeaking with ſuch as come to viſit them; it being ſomewhat difficult for Strangers to find a Perſon out in ſo large a Place, where they are unacquainted: He alſo gives notice (by a loud Outcry) to the Steward and Aſſiſtant of the Hours appointed to take in the Boxes. His Salary is 4 *d. per* Day, and 2 *d.* of every new Priſoner.

The Kettle-Pot Man

Makes Broth every *Sunday* of Chumps of Neck Beef, which are a certain Gift belonging to the Priſon, ſent by the Beadle of *Butchers-Hall*, for bringing of which the *Kettle-Pot Man* pays the Meſſenger Four Pence, and has about 20 *d.* allowed him by the Steward to defray that Charge, to buy Oatmeal, Herbs and Coals, and has the Priviledge of ſelling the Meat he

he dreſſes to the Priſoners. This, with 2 *d.* of every new Priſoner, is all the Profit he makes of his Office.

The Scavenger

Is to take care to ſweep the *White Room*, Stair-Caſe, and Paſſages to the Rooms every Day, and carry away all the Duſt from any of the Chambers or Wards, being ſwept together by the Priſoners ready for him to a convenient place for that purpoſe, till ſuch time as the Duſt-man comes with his Cart to fetch it away. He is alſo Yeoman of the *Nut-crackers* (according to the *Ludgate* Phraſe) *viz.* at the command of the Conſtable of the Day, he puts Offenders into the Stocks, or Irons, and attends upon them while there, by Night or Day. He rings a Bell to call the Priſoners to Prayers, and at Eight at Night, to give Strangers notice to depart the Houſe. He ſummons the Steward and Aſſiſtants to meet about the diſpatch of Publick Affairs, and attends during their ſitting, for which he receives 4 *d.* and makes Proclamation when any thing is loſt, for which he is paid 2 *d.* by the Perſon that employs him, with ſeveral other petty Performances that belong to him; for all which he has an allowance from the Steward of 6 *d.* *per* Day,

Day, and a distinct Proportion of all Eatables that are sent in for the Relief of the Prisoners; besides, as often as he washes the *White Room*, or cleanses our the Cistern, (which is at the Stewards discretion) he receives for each *6 d.* These altogether make his Salary and Perquisits a tolerable Subsistance.

The Box-men

At present are in number Eight, who by two at a time, at the places beforemention'd, in their turns, are obliged to beg certain Hours: According to this Method, suppose *A* and *B* begin on a *Monday* Morning, *A* is obliged to be at the Box under the Gate by Five in the Morning, Winter and Summer; *B* not while Seven at *Black-Fryars* Window, People not passing so early that way as through the Gate. At these Places they stand till Twelve at Noon, where, if they are negligent to give constant Attendance, they are reprimanded by the Constable of the Day, and sometimes turn'd off the Box, if they do not answer the end of their Employment; which is to bellow aloud in the most moving Terms they can invent, that being the best Qualification to recommend a Man to that Station; for if he be never so

much in want, unleſs he has a good ir of Lungs, a great Aſſurance, and an act Method of Canting, he ſhall not be dmitted to this, one of the moſt beneficial oſts in the Houſe. At 12 a Clock, after e Steward has counted the Money he ives a fourth part to *A*, and as many arthings as are over and above the even ence: To *B* he gives three fourths of hat is in the Box, and the odd Farthings. he Reaſon of this diſproportion is from e different number of Paſſengers, the one ing a great Road, the other a Bye Paſſage; that *B*'s three fourths is very rarely e-uivalent to *A*'s one fourth. As ſoon as ver the Boxes are emptied, *C* and *D* ſtand ady to receive and hang them out again, here they give their Attendance till 5 in e Evening, at which time they receive s before, and are relieved by *E F*; at 9 t Night their Duty ends, and then the hree Out-Boxes are examined; and if any dd Farthings therein, they fall to the Sca-engers Lot, for his care to hang them out nd take them in; but if there happen to e a piece of Gold, the Scavenger has Six-ence, which is very ſeldom. On *Tueſday* Morning *G H.* ſucceed, and are relieved t 12 at Noon by the two that began; but ith this difference, that *B* takes *A*'s place, nd ſo interchangeably, by which courſe

A B loſe the Benefit of one Day in Fou
as do the reſt in their turns. This indee
is very irkſome to ſome Perſons, and mo
than they are able to undergo; for let th
Weather be what it will, they muſt ſtan
ſeven Hours in it, ſpending their Spiri
for the Morning Box; but abating tha
their Buſineſs is as profitable as any in th
Houſe, for (modeſtly ſpeaking) they do n
make leſs than 12 *d. per* Day of it, one Da
with another, eſpecially in the Winter Se
ſon, when the Town is full of People, th
Box-man's fourth part has been dive
times worth four or five Shillings; beſide
they have many Priviledges more tha
other Priſoners.

Secretary.

Beſides theſe, there is of late a new
contriv'd Office call'd a *Secretary*, only t
ſave the Steward the trouble of writing h
own Buſineſs, for which he is allowed 2
per Day. He writes all the Publick Buſ
neſs of the Houſe, and Petitions once
Year to the Inqueſts of the City; fo
which Petitions he is paid 6 *d.* each b
the Steward, and 6 *d.* every Election Da
for writing a Liſt of the Names of ſuch a
are in Nomination for Officers: And tha
the Priſoners may diſpence with this extra
ordinar

ordinary Charge without Grumbling, he is obliged to write Letters for ſuch of them as cannot write themſelves.

I had almoſt forgotten to inform the Reader, that beſides all the 'fore-mention'd, there are yet two other Officers who are to walk upon the Leads in the Day time by turns, to prevent any Priſoner that may attempt to make an eſcape from thence; and theſe are paid each 3 *d. per* Day out of the Poor Priſoners Income, tho' the Office be purely to ſerve the Deputy Keeper, and he has it always at his diſpoſal to whom he pleaſes (who are commonly two of the Conſtables) by which contrivance he is always ſure of two Votes in ſeven in that Aſſembly. For the defraying of this Charge, the Steward pretends an Order in his Book, as well as for ſome others as unreaſonable. And who knows but in a few Years more, after this Rate, the whole Income for Relief and Releaſe of Priſoners, will be appropriated to the Deputy Keeper's whole diſpoſal, if the Poor Freemen Priſoners do not awake out of that deep Lethargy they have along time been in, and cry aloud to the reſt of their fellow Citizens, who hold the helm of Government of this Honourable City, to redreſs theſe and many other Incroachments upon their Rights and Priviledges.

Government.

WHere divers Perſons of different Humours and Diſpoſitions are confin'd together, it is not improbable but ſome Diſorders may happen to the prejudice of ſome of them. To prevent therefore the ill Conſequences that may attend any ſuch Diſorders; and inaſmuch as Priſoners by reaſon of Confinement, are not ſubject to the immediate Inſpection of the Civil Magiſtrate, the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen have thought it neceſſary to inveſt the ſaid Priſoners with Power to make ſuch Orders as may be moſt conducive to the good Regulation of themſelves, with Authority to puniſh the breakers thereof. Which Orders made by the conſent of the Majority of Steward and Aſſiſtants, were formerly wont to be approved and confirmed by Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, and entred in a Book in the *Guild-Hall*, before they became obligatory to the Priſoners; and Copies thereof committed to the Care of the Steward and Aſſiſtants, for the Priſoners to have recourſe

courſe to at all times, that they might be the better able to regulate their Behaviour accordingly. But this cuſtom of confirming the Orders is now become obſolete, and the Steward and Aſſiſtants make what Orders they pleaſe, and aſſume to themſelves a Power to inflict Corporal Puniſhments, without any ſuch Confirmation, and often conſult the Deputy Keeper about making them, who pretends to have a Right to preſide thereat; but whether empowered thereto by any Original Order in the *Guild-Hall*, is a diſputable point: For it can never enter into any reaſonable Perſon's Underſtanding to believe, that the Government of this Honourable City would allow him ſuch a Preheminence, who have been ſo careful of the Poor Priſoner's ſuffering any Inconveniencies from their Keeper, as to grant them the Benefit of chooſing a Steward and other Officers, as well to defend them therefrom, as to regulate themſelves. For if it happen that the Hatch have ſet up a Creature of their own to be Steward, and procured Votes for ſuch Men to be Aſſiſtants, as they can Byaſs or Influence, it may not be difficult to obtain the making of ſuch Orders as may be more for their own Advantage than the Priſoners, of which take an Inſtance or two. By virtue of an Order

(un-

(undoubtedly procured by ſuch a Practice) the Steward every Election Day pays the Deputy Keeper Five Shillings, for his Attendance for about half an Hour, out of the Money that is given for the relief of Poor Priſoners; which muſt needs be inconſiſtent with the deſign of granting them Liberty to hang out a Box to beg for their own Relief. Another Inſtance is, his exacting Money Monthly (by virtue of ſuch another kind of Order) for lodging in the *Maſters-ſide*, and pretending to it in the *Common-ſide* alſo, or elſe turning the Priſoners out of their Lodgings, contrary to the uſage of all Keepers before: And indeed very unreaſonable; there being in the Hands of ſeveral Companies and other Perſons, large Legacies and Gifts of well-diſpoſed People, not only ſufficient to defray that Charge, but to pay divers ſmall Debts for Poor Priſoners, if any Charitable Perſons would ſo far plead their Cauſe, as to prevent thoſe Gifts from being all ſunk for Chamber Rent.

But among the multitude of their Orders ſome are very good, ſuch as againſt Prophane Swearing, Drunkenneſs, or Pilfering from, or abuſing their fellow Priſoners by Word or Deed, and divers others, proper for their Civil Government; the Breaches whereof are puniſh'd with Stocks,

Irons,

Irons, or Fines: These Orders were wont to be read in the Audience of all the Priſoners upon the Election Day, but that good Cuſtom (as moſt others ſuch are) is now diſcontinued, and the Book wherein they are written, never to be peruſed but in the Preſence of the Steward, who is not often at leiſure to admit Perſons to the view of it: For which cauſe, many become Offenders unwillingly; an Inſtance of which happened on the 1ſt Day of *May* 1711. being Choice-Day, after this manner. There having been a Struggle between the *Hatch* and the Priſoners for ſome time, about the Election of a new Steward, and ſome of them intending not to appear that Day, but ſtand Neuters, perceiving that the *Hatch*, like a mighty Torrent, would bear them down, in all Oppoſitions they could make againſt the Irregularity of their Proceedings. This coming to the Steward's Ear, he, as ſoon as the Election was over, gave command to the Scavinger to lock the Door, and let no Perſon in or out, and then order'd the Secretary to read an Order to this effect: "That all Perſons that did not appear in "the *White Room* on the Election Day, "muſt pay 4 *d.* or be ſet in the Stocks. Upon this the Priſoners Names were call'd over, and ſuch as were not preſent were

call'd

call'd one by one and fin'd 4 *d.* *per* Man, except ſuch as he and his Crew of Aſſiſtants thought fit to excuſe. A pretty way of tricking Poor Men out of their Money, when more than half of them never knew of any ſuch Order, and perhaps had not 2 *d.* at their command, but that was all one, for they muſt either pay, promiſe to pay, or go to the Stocks.

Many of their Orders are ſo illegal and inconſiſtent with Reaſon, that they muſt have Fronts of Braſs, who pretend the Wiſe Senators of this Honourable City ſhould patronize them, the Puniſhments being ſo unmeaſurably proportioned to the Offences: For in many trivial Caſes, eſpecially ſpeaking reflectingly on the Keeper, Steward, *&c.* the penalty is to ſit in the Stocks or Irons divers Hours, and for ſome Offences divers Days and Nights. But by what Authority they execute ſuch Penalties within Doors is a queſtion, ſince the longeſt time for ſitting in the Stocks doth not exceed three Hours by any Statute Law abroad.

There is one Order which is ſuperior to all Laws and Acts of Parliament whatſoever, which is thus, *viz.* Whoſoever is committed to the Stocks or Irons, muſt ſet his Hand to a Writing of Submiſſion, (as they call it) before he ſhall be releaſed, tho'

tho' he hath fulfill'd the Sentence againſt him, which for ſome Offences is ſeveral Days and Nights: And this they pretend to inſiſt upon, tho' the Lord Mayor or Sheriff, ſend order to the contrary; and nothing but Death or a remove by *Habeas Corpus* can exempt any one from thence, without writing a Submiſſion, by which they aſſume to themſelves a Power exceeding all the Courts of Juſtice in the Kingdom: For by this means, if a Man ſhould be accuſed wrongfully, and yet ſhould be thought guilty by the Steward and four of the Aſſiſtants (who are no more infallible than other Men) he muſt to the Stocks or Irons, and not be releaſed till he has entred himſelf a Criminal upon Record, by confeſſing a guilt under his own Hand, tho' in his own Conſcience he knows himſelf to be clear. An Inſtance whereof happened in *September* or *October* laſt, thus: A Perſon who had been ſomewhat active againſt the Intereſt of the *Hatch*, was ſummoned before a Table, and there accuſed (by hear-ſay only) of adviſing a Woman (whoſe Mother, a Priſoner, lay then dead in the Houſe) to complain to the Lord Mayor, of her Mother's Sufferings, intimating that ſhe died for want; which indeed was ſomewhat ſuſpicious, divers of the Women having given out

Words, that ſhe expreſs'd herſelf much to that purpoſe. But the Man poſitively denied that ever he gave any ſuch advice; and tho' they had no other Proof than the teſtimony of one Man, who affirm'd that he heard another Daughter of the ſaid dead Woman ſay, her Siſter had been adviſed thereto by a little Man, and looking at this Man at a diſtance (the Hatch being ſhut between them) ſaid, That was he; and tho' the ſaid Siſter offered to make Oath, that the ſaid little Man had never adviſed her to that effect; yet for a terror to the reſt, (there being ſome muttering in the Houſe about the Old Woman's complaints before ſhe dy'd) he was condemned to ſit in the Stocks four Days and four Nights: Which Puniſhment the Young Man with a great deal of Courage and Patience (true tokens of his Innocence) underwent; and when the Term was fully expired, he demanded of the Steward to be releaſed; but inſtead of that the Steward produced his Book of Orders, and told him, there was no Redemption for him, unleſs he would write a Submiſſion; but he refuſing to record himſelf a Criminal, would not write, and ſo continued a Day and Night longer, and then was adviſed, by his Friends to do ſo, and take his Remedy at Law afterwards, if ever he can

and the Steward live to be diſcharged from their Confinement, when it is ſuppos'd the ſaid Steward will hardly be defended by his Book of Orders from the Stroke of Juſtice, for uſing the Queen's Subjects ſo barbarouſly, notwithſtanding he has extorted a kind of Confeſſion from him, whom he pretends to have Authority to puniſh, for a ſuppoſed Crime againſt an Order, which ſays, no Priſoner ſhall ſpeak any thing that reflects upon the Government of the Houſe, under leſs penalty than ſitting four Days and Nights in the Stocks. I had deſigned to have given a particular Account both of the Nature of their Orders, and their Method of proceeding againſt Offenders; but inaſmuch as I have given hints of both in the foregoing Relations, I ſhall enlarge no more thereupon, when I have imform'd the Reader, that the preſent Steward acts generally very inſolently and arbitrarily, eſpecially if he thinks himſelf or the Deputy Keeper reflected upon, by committing Priſoners to the Stocks, contrary to former Cuſtom, at his abſolute Will and Pleaſure, perhaps at 10 or 11 at Night, without ſummoning the Aſſiſtants to hear the Matter fairly examined; where the Poor Priſoner muſt ſit all Night, or longer, till he writes his Submiſſion, in a wide open Room, where there is a large

Window without Glaſs, let the Seaſon be never ſo cold, to the endangering the Health of the Sufferer, unleſs he be of a very robuſt Conſtitution. But tho' the Steward's Zeal be ſo warm for his own and his Maſter's Honour, he can tamely hear his Maker's Name prophaned by horrid Oaths and Execrations, and not inflict Puniſhment on the Offenders, it having not been known, that ever any Perſon ſuffered for Swearing or Drunkenneſs ſince he has been Steward, which is now above two Years. But the Reaſon of this partiality may be eaſily gueſs'd at, ſince his own Conſcience, (if he has any) muſt needs fly in his Face, while he puniſhes thoſe Crimes he is ſo guilty of himſelf. There is one thing more obſervable under this Head, and that is, tho' the Deputy Keeper pretends to have a Share in making Orders, yet when application has been made to him about the Severity of the Execution of them, he can withdraw behind the Curtain, by telling the Offender, that he has nothing to do with the Orders they make themſelves, tho' he can prevaricate as much another way when he preſides at a Table, adviſing the Steward and Aſſiſtants to burn their Book of Orders, if they ſuffer themſelves to be inſulted (as he calls it) by ſuch a Fellow, meaning a Priſoner who had been forward

in

inſiſting upon the juſt Rights and Privi-
dges of the Priſoners.

Cuſtoms and *Uſages.*

THE next thing I ſhall mention, is the Cuſtoms and Uſages of the Houſe, d then draw to a Concluſion. When a iſoner deſigns to remove to *Ludgate*, he ocures a *Duci facias*, which coſts him half Crown, and making application to an ficer to conduct him thither, he uſually mands half a Crown more, tho' the Or-r allows him but 2 *d.* which if he refuſes pay, the Officers ſhall ſo ſhift the Mat-r between themſelves, that it ſhall coſt e Priſoner more than that by their delays Lodging, and other Expences in the unging Houſes; and whatever the Offi-r extorts by that means, he will never-eleſs not fail to demand his 2 *d.* when he mes to the Priſon. Where being come, is delivered into the Cuſtody of the eputy Keeper or Turn-key, and muſt pay d. *viz.* 1 *s.* to the Turn-key, and 2 *d.* the Officer. Soon after his Entrance, he viſited by the Steward and Aſſiſtant for at Day, who with the Turn-key, who is ſo the Chamberlain, enquire where he ill lodge; if on the Maſters ſide, he muſt y down to the Steward 15 *s.* 6 *d.* the par-

particulars of which (except 7 *s.* for Months Chamber Rent before-hand) I hav not gained Information enough to accoun for: If he lodges in the Common or War ſide, the Steward demands 4 *s.* ½ *d.* Th particulars of which are as follow:

	l.	*s.*
To the Houſe Stock	0	1
To Flooridge to be ſpent in the Ward, and for Candle	0	1
To Sheets, tho' he never has any	0	0
To the Conſtable, Reader, *&c.*	0	0
Total	0	4

Which Dues of the Houſe (as they ar called) the Priſoner muſt pay, or give goo Satisfaction that he will, before he ſhall b admitted to a Lodging; and if he be neg ligent afterwards to make payment in few Days, the Steward will preſume t threaten him with the Stocks. When th Steward has gotten the 2 *s.* and 6 *d.* for th Houſe, *&c.* he commonly turns him ove to the Management of the Ward, for th remaining 18 *d.* ½. which is their Claim and they often times upon neglect emplo *Monſieur Shawney*, who ſeldom fails of g ving a good account thereof, or elſe the will exclude the Priſoner (until he pays from the Benefit of ſharing ſuch Gifts a

a

re ſent for the relief of the Poor Priſo-
ers, which is 9 Stone of Beef from the
Lord Mayor every *Saturday*, 6 or 7 dozen
f Bread once in 9 Weeks from the Leather-
ellers Company, the Lord Mayor's Basket,
nd ſome other Benevolencies which are
eſs certain; of all which the Maſter-ſide
never partakes, except ſuch of them as are
he Stewards Favourites. And here it may
not be improper to acquaint the Reader
with the Method of dividing ſuch Gifts.
When any Proviſion is ſent in, it is com-
monly carried into the *White Room*, and
there lock'd up till the Steward is pleaſed
to be at leiſure to ſhare it, who calls the
Aſſiſtant of the Day and the Scavenger,
and ſometimes others, whom he pleaſes;
then they go to dividing a proportion to
every Ward, with the Door lock'd upon
them, which gives a ſuſpicion many times
to the Priſoners of ſome unfair dealing, that
is not always groundleſs. When every
Ward have received their Portion, which
it is the Duty of every youngeſt Priſoner
therein, to attend the Call of the Scavenger
for that purpoſe; the ſaid youngeſt Priſo-
ner muſt divide it in as equal Portions as
he can, ſuitable to the number of Men or
Women in the Ward, and then every one,
according to Seniority, takes his ſhare;
wherefore if he makes any part leſs than
the

the reſt, he muſt expect it will fall to h
own Lot. The Youngeſt Priſoner is obl
ged alſo every Morning to ſweep the War
and provide a Pail of clean Water, for com
mon uſe, and to aſſiſt once a Week hi
that came next before him to waſh th
Ward, one of them fetching Water, an
the other waſhing, as they ſhall agree be
tween themſelves. If he be infirm and no
able to perform this Duty, he muſt hire i
done, which will coſt him 3 *d. per* Wee
waſhing, and 3 *d.* ſweeping, which he i
obliged to, till another comes under him
In every Ward the Eldeſt Priſoner is the
Alderman of the Ward, who commonly
when theſe Offices are neglected, gives his
precept to *Monſieur Shawney* to execute his
Authority upon the Offender; which is
done privately by one or more in the
Ward, perhaps when the Offender is a
aſleep, taking away ſome of his Effects,
and keeping their own Counſel ſo ſtrictly,
that it is impoſſible to diſcover who did
it; and when Satisfaction is made, the Ef-
fects are as privately convey'd into their
former places.

But to return to the Account of Parti-
culars aforeſaid, it is obſervable, that not
many Years ago, the Steward never pre-
tended to take theſe Dues, but the Con-
ſtable of the Day (who then adopts the new
Priſo-

riſoner to be his Son or Daughter) civilly
ld him or her, that he muſt have One
hilling for the Houſe, and 4 *d.* for him-
lf, and allowed them any reaſonable
me to pay, and left the reſt to the Pri-
ner's diſcretion. But as the caſe now
ands, it would be an unaccountable piece
f Aſſurance for the Chamberlain to re-
uire 8 *d.* for Sheets; therefore the Hatch
nd the Steward have ſo jumbled the
latter together, as to demand the Dues
a lump, by which means the Poor Pri-
oner pays inſenſibly for Sheets which he
ever has, the Steward not giving account
f the Particulars of his Demand.

When the new Priſoner has paid all his
Dues, he partakes of all Gifts as aforeſaid,
which, as things are now ordered, falls
ery ſhort of a Subſiſtance; therefore if he
as no Friend abroad to relieve him, he is
orced to make Application to the Steward,
who perhaps, after much Sollicitation, will
ouchſafe to allow him 2 *d. per* Day out of
he Houſe Stock, or more if there be hopes
f bringing him in to Vote for the Intereſt
f the Hatch; or if he be qualify'd, will
romote him to be a Boxman: Whereas
ormerly no Perſon was admitted to any
f thoſe Benefits, till he had been a Priſo-
er 16 Weeks, for which they pretend an
Order: But the preſent Steward (Good

Man) can diſpence with that Order, t
ſerve a turn, pretending he does it in com
paſſion to the Perſon, when it is notor
ouſly evident to the contrary, for whoeve
becomes a Penſioner, muſt of Neceſſity b
in that Intereſt; and this divers Poor Me
have acknowledged, by confeſſing they ar
forced to act againſt their own Senſe an
Underſtanding, for that Reaſon: Such
the Aſcendant the Steward and his Maſte
the Hatch have gotten over the Poor Pri
ſoners, that they are forced to ſee them
ſelves abuſed, and cannot help it. In re
reſpect of which the following Lines, ſup
poſed to be written by the late Earl of *Ro
cheſter*, may be ſaid to be verefy'd.

— Honeſty's againſt all common Senſe,
Men muſt be Knaves, 'tis in their own defenc
Nor ſhall weak Truth thy Reputation ſave,
The Knaves will all conſpire to call the Knave
Wrong'd ſhalt thou live, ſtill injur'd and oppreſ
Who durſt be a leſs Villain than the reſt.

Now if any one ſhall Query, why d
the Priſoners continue the Steward ſo lon
in his Office (having held it almoſt tw
Years and an half) ſince the Lord Mayor
Order empowers them to chuſe a new on
once a Month. I anſwer, he being a Per
ſon wholly in the Intereſt of the Hatch

which the Reader may the more eaſily believe, if the common report among the Priſoners be true, that he goes often abroad to the Tavern with the Deputy Keeper, abiding there till 1, 2, or 3 a Clock in the Morning, where his Income of 7 or 8 Shillings *per* Week by his Office, will not (as may be preſumed) defray his Expences at ſuch Sittings, eſpecially conſidering he muſt always treat; the Hatch ſupports him in his place, by over-aweing or otherwiſe diſpoſing the Priſoners to Vote for him. For tho' they are allowed a formal Choice, yet whoſoever the Hatch appoints muſt be Steward, being always provided with a Majority, who are either Officers of the Steward's creating, or Penſioners, who for fear of loſing their Income, are obliged to Vote for him; beſides theſe, there are among them ſome dull Aſhes fit for Burden, who (*Eſau* like) for a drunken Entertainment, will ſell their Birth-rights. There is alſo a certain Cuſtom introduc'd of late Years, which contributes much to this purpoſe, as well as to the Improvement of the Cellar-Keeper's Intereſt, which is held after this manner: The Night before every Choice, the Priſoners aſſemble together in the *White Room*, to ſpend 2 *d.* *per* Man, (ſo many of them as will, there being no Obligation, tho' ſuch as are ab-

ſent are eſteemed as Malecontents) in order, as is pretended, to conſider who are proper Perſons to be in Nomination for Offices the next Day; tho' that be the leaſt that is diſcourſed of at that time, being very irregular in the whole Proceſs of their Diſcourſe, except when the Steward commands Silence, while ſeveral Healths are drank with a triple Huzza, of which the Deputy Keeper's and Steward's fail not to make up the Number. After about an Hours confus'd Noiſe, (having begun about Nine) the Reader ſtands up and tells the Company, the Steward has expended his Four Shillings according to cuſtom, and their 2 *d. per* Man has been brought in, and they are welcome Gentlemen: But the Cellar-man offers to expend his Shilling, and ſuch of the Company as are minded to club their Penny apiece more, are welcome to tarry, the reſt are deſired to depart the Room. When this ſecond part of the Carouſe is over, they withdraw from thence; ſome into the Steward's Chamber, ſome into the Cellar, or the Cellar mans Room, where they guzle it for moſt part of the Night, by which Method their Brains being thoroughly ſoak'd, they are ſcarce capable of diſcerning their own Intereſt, and ſo the eaſier wheedled to Vote for that of the Hatch. By ſuch

Practices

Practices as theſe, the Priſoners are either over awed or wheedled to continue the ſaid Steward, and the Hatch take care that no Man be in Nomination againſt him, but ſuch a one as is not qualify'd, or not willing to ſerve the Office. But the greateſt Argument againſt his removal is, that the Houſe owes him a great deal of Money, which he has been out of Pocket, to ſupply the deſects of the Income of the Priſon, and till ſome Perſon be found to reimburſe him, he pretends to hold it. But the unreaſonableneſs of this pretence is obvious, if the Reader will but obſerve the following Account, which for its reality the Steward's Book is a ſufficient Proof.

Houſe

Houſe Debtor.

		l.	s.	d.
	To Common Charge	0	07	10
Tueſday	To Clock and Gudgeon	0	01	00
May 2.	To Gudg. and Woods	0	03	06
1710.	To the Liſt	0	00	06
	To Calling the Houſe	0	00	04
	To waſhing *White Room*	0	00	06
	To Expended at a Table	1	11	07
	To Strowings *Wt. Room*	0	00	02
	To Relief of *J. S.*	0	00	04
	To Relief of *V.*	0	00	02
	To Relief of *R.*	0	00	02
	To Relief of *D.*	0	00	02
	To Brooms	0	01	02
	To Bleeding *S.*	0	00	06
		2	07	11

Per Cont. &c.

May the 2*d* 1710.

		l.	s.	d.
By the Boxes at	12	0	02	04
	5	0	01	04
	9	0	01	06
		0	05	02

In

In this Account the Houſe is Debtor to the Steward 2 *l.* 2 *s.* 9 *d.* but tho' he has had the good Fortune to have a Crew of Aſſiſtants to allow it, who took part of that extravagant Expence in the Seventh Article; Yet when the Overſeers (which are two Perſons choſen out of every Ward, to inſpect the Accounts) came to object againſt that and ſeveral other extravagant Ways of diſpoſing of the Monies given to the Relief of Poor Priſoners, he refuſed to let them proceed in the Examination, and ſtill perſiſts in it to this Day; So that unleſs the Common Council Men next adjoyning to the Priſon, (according to former cuſtom, purſuant to Order of Lord Mayor, *&c.*) will compel him to it, the Poor Priſoners are like to be defrauded to the end of the Chapter, and he to be continued Steward, ſo long as he is a Priſoner, or till he falls into the diſpleaſure of the Deputy Keeper; which he did in ſome Meaſure on the 31ſt of *December* laſt, when the Deputy Keeper being in the Rules (where were preſent the Steward, two of the Conſtables, the Reader, and divers other Priſoners) ſwore by God, (repeating his Oath ſeveral times) that he would turn out the preſent Steward (mentioning his Name) from being any longer Steward, if he did not endeavour to turn

out

out the Church-warden (who had incurr'd his displeasure) the next Day, being the Day of Election, an evident Demonstration how far the Deputy Keeper influences the Election of Steward and other Officers. But were the Steward's Accounts fair, he has it in his Power to repay himself, having the Legacy Book in his Possession, and the Monies arising thereby coming to his Hands; and not only so, but he has received Monies to be distributed among the Prisoners, every one a part, which he has neglected to do, according to the Will of the Donors, and placed to the Publick Account to reimburse himself; and yet it appeared about *Christmas* 1710. the House was indebted to him above Thirty Pounds. And here it may not be improper to give the Reader an account of his Behaviour upon such an Occasion, which was after this manner: In the beginning of the Year 1710. a certain Gentleman came to dispose of 5 Guineas among the Prisoners; but having not Silver wherewith to make the Distribution, he left it to the Steward, who promised to fulfil his desire; but when the Gentleman was gone, instead of that he placed it to Account, and gave the Prisoners not a Penny. This caused a great murmuring among them, and some of them were punished with the Stocks; there-

erefore at length the Sheriffs came, t to little purpoſe, ſuch only of the riſoners being admitted into their Pre-nce, as the Deputy Keeper and Steward leaſed; ſo that the Matter was blown ver, and the Poor Priſoners forced to ſit own by the loſs. About a Year after, e ſame Gentleman came again with the me Gift, and was about to depoſite it in e Steward's Hands, as before, but ſeveral them remembring how they had been rved the Year foregoing, took the Cou-ge to deſire the Gentleman to ſee it di-ributed himſelf: But it being in Gold as efore, and he not willing to give himſelf e trouble, told them he would call again a few Days, and if the Steward did not o them Juſtice, he would, and ſo giving the oney departed. The Steward hereupon as extreamly netled to ſee himſelf detect-d after this manner, and commanded that ne particular Perſon who had been the for-ardeſt in complaining of him to the Gen-leman, ſhould be immediately ſet in the ocks; but the whole Body of Priſoners op-oſed him; ſome telling him, that he more eſerved it himſelf; upon which and ſome ther ſevere Reflections that paſt upon him, e ſneak'd away into the Office, and in me few Hours after, made an equal Di-

vidend of the Money, which came to
bout 17 *d. per* Head.

Under this Head, it may not be impr
per to give the Reader an account of the
Weddings and Burials. Their Weddin
are twofold, Real and Nominal: T
Real Weddings are when one Priſoner
married to another, which ſometimes ha
pens; by which means the Woman pr
cures her own Liberty, and thereby b
comes aſſiſtant to the Man in bringi
him Work or Neceſſaries, and perhaps i
ſtrumental in procuring his Liberty al
The Nominal is when any Priſoner's Wi
ſtays with her Husband all Night, whi
ſometimes happens, if they do not car
fully obſerve when notice is given of ſhu
ting the Door at Nine at Night; whi
the Turn-key is very exact in, hardly e
ceeding a Minute after the Clock h
ſtruck, (tho' he be not ſo over haſty
coming in a Morning, making the Po
Priſoners and their Friends wait his leiſu
divers times in the Winter Seaſon till a
moſt Nine a Clock, contrary to the Orde
which ſays, the Priſon Door ſhall be ope
ed at Eight) ſo that whoſoever miſſes th
opportunity of going out immediately u
on notice, muſt abide there all Nigh
When either of theſe Weddings happe
it is ſoon made known to the Priſoner
wh

who procuring Inſtruments, ſuch as Frying Pans, Tongs, Gridirons, Keys, *&c.* compoſe a Conſort of rugged Muſick, with which they make an horrid Noiſe: And having the Eldeſt Box-man (with a Candle in each Hand) for their Leader, they advance towards the Bride-Chamber, where after ſeranading the Bridegroom and his Bride, they demand half a Crown of the Bridegroom, which he is obliged to ſubmit to, or he will receive a ſevere treatment from *Monſieur Shawney:* From thence they go to the Steward and demand 4 *d.* and ſo on to every Ward and Chamber in the Houſe, levying 2 *d. per* Head upon every new Priſoner, that hath not been at ſuch a Wedding before. Thus having finiſhed their Collection, they go in a ſort of Triumph (exerciſing their Inſtruments) into the *White Room*, or Cellar, where they ſpend the Money in Drink and Tobacco, making merry moſt part of the Night, to which merry-making they that will may come; and ſo much for their Weddings.

Their Burials are after this manner: As ſoon as any Priſoner dies, the Conſtable of the Day is called, let it be at any Hour of the Night, who immediately ſecures the dead Perſon's Cloaths, or other Effects, as Bed, Bedding, or whatever elſe

he or ſhe hath with them in the Priſon, for the uſe of the Deputy Keeper. Then, if the Priſoner hath no Friend that will take care to bury him, the Steward provides a Coffin, *&c.* and having procured an Order from the Lord Mayor, the Corps is convey'd in a Coach to *Bethlehem* burying Ground in *Moorfields*, all which Charge is defray'd out of the Priſon Stock. But if the deceaſed's Friends will take care of his Burial, the Body is at their diſpoſal, and then it is ſometimes depoſited in the Chappel, while a Pſalm is there ſung by the Priſoners, before it is carried out of the Houſe. And here I cannot but remark the Deputy Keeper's Impoſition, in obliging the Conſtables to ſecure the Priſoner's Effects for his own uſe, and yet put the Poor Priſoners to the charge of the Burial; whereas in other Priſon's the Keepers are obliged to bury the dead, if no Friend will do it, at leaſt it is but reaſonable for him to let the Priſoners have the Effects, ſince he puts them to the charge of the Burial; but he pretends to an Order (of his own or his Predeceſſors procuring no doubt) that empowers him to withhold them for Chamber Rent, which rather than he will loſe, he has employ'd his Turn-key to make Application to a certain Company for Money, pretending

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ing it to be for the Releaſe of a Poor Priſoner, who at the ſame time lay dead in the Houſe, as may be proved without much difficulty.

And here it may not be amiſs to caution all ſuch, as may hereafter fall into the adverſity of Confinement in this place, if they bring their own Beds, that they take care to provide one no bigger than will ſerve one Perſon only, and not lay it upon one of the Keeper's Bedſteads; for if it be large enough for two, the Chamberlain will place another to lodge there, for which the Deputy Keeper will exact 14 *d. per* Week of him that lodges there, tho' another Man be the Owner thereof; and tho' not big enough for two, yet, if upon the Keeper's Bedſtead, he will inſiſt upon whole Pay many times, eſpecially if the Chamber Rent be paid by Charity, notwithſtanding the Lord Mayor's Order ſays he ſhall pay but 3 *d. per* Week if he brings his own Bed, at leaſt he will demand 6 *d.* or 8 *d. per* Week, or refuſe to deliver the Priſoner's Effects while paid: Which Rates many Poor Men when going out, and glad of Liberty, will rather comply with than contend, being wheedled into ſuch a complyance by being told, that the Money is not out of their own Pockets, being given them by Charitable Perſons,

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in hopes of getting Five or Ten Shillings for themſelves, which ſeldom happens, of which many a Poor Wretch has need enough, being like a Bird after a long Confinement, at a loſs how to ſubſiſt for a while, when turn'd into the wide World to ſhift for himſelf; not conſidering that at the Rates aforelaid, and their conniving at ſuch Management, the Deputy Keeper gets by Petitioning Companies and other well diſpoſed Perſons, as much for one Man's Releaſe, as would (if Juſtice had its Courſe) Releaſe two or three, who muſt remain there the longer for ſuch Contrivances: For tho' a Priſoner be diſcharged from the Sheriff, yet does he aſſume to himſelf the Power of keeping Men in Confinement for Chamber Rent, without any due Proceſs at Law; but *Quo Warranto*, I am not Lawyer enough to determine: Yet having generally to do with ſuch Poor Men as are not able to ſtand the Tryal, he has the better Aſſurance to perſiſt in it. However, he might be prevented from taking more than his due, if ſuch as have the diſpoſing of ſuch Monies as are given for the Releaſe of Priſoners, would give themſelves the trouble of being a little more Inquiſitive into what the Priſoner really owes for Chamber Rent, *&c.* and not depend altogether upon the

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Deputy Keeper's Integrity, for by this means they would be doubly charitable, in releaſing (as aforeſaid) two or three, with what is paid for one. Nor ſhall a Man that provides his own Bed, have the Liberty of ſetting it where he deſires, tho' there be never ſo much Room in the place; an Inſtance of which happened laſt Summer, as followeth: A certain Priſoner lodging in the Maſter's ſide, had for more than a Year kept touch with the Deputy Keeper, paying him Seven Shillings *per* Month, (according to his pretended Order) but not being able to hold it, procured a little Bed and Beadſtead of his own, and placed it in the Room where he had ſo long been, which the Deputy Keeper would not allow, but ordered it to be removed into one of the Wards, where he continued ſome time, being placed there with the formality of the Conſtables introducing him, according to cuſtom: But the Deputy Keeper having a further Pique againſt him, came into the Ward one Night about Nine a Clock, with his Sword by his ſide (which is againſt the Rules of the Priſon) peremptorily commanding him to carry his Bed into the Charity Ward, (the greateſt Indignity he could offer him) which the Priſoner refuſing, inſiſting upon his being duly placed there, and blaming

paid

the Keeper's Severity to him, who had paid him ſo much Money, expreſs'd himſelf a little warmly, whereupon the Deputy Keeper had the Aſſurance to ſtrike him, tho' a Freeman of this Honourable City, (which, whether he be ſuch himſelf, is a queſtion among the Priſoners) and ordered the Box-men (who before-hand were ſummoned to attend him) immediately to carry his Bed into their Ward, which the Poor mercenary Animals durſt do no leſs than obey, tho' they had ſeen their fellow Priſoner ſo barbarouſly abuſed in their Preſence. I ſhould both tire the Readers Patience and my own, ſhould I enlarge in giving ſuch Inſtances as might be produced, of the Innovations that have of late been introduc'd, and foul abuſes that are at preſent practiſed in this Priſon. But I ſhall only add, that it is become by reaſon thereof, like *Augeas* Stable, which none but the *Herculean* Labour, or Power of Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen and Common Council, are able to cleanſe and reſtore to its former good *Uſages* and *Cuſtoms*.

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The Conclusion.

I Shall now conclude with an addreſs to the Reader, to put a candid Conſtruction upon what has been preſented to his view, aſſuring him that what the Author has here expoſed, is notoriouſly Fact, as can be atteſted by divers who are now at Liberty, and more ſtill in Confinement, could they be aſſured of Protection from the Inſults of the preſent Steward and his Abettors: And that his making it Publick is purely in good Will to his fellow Citizens, thinking it neceſſary, that every Freeman of this City ſhould be acquainted with the preſent State of the Priſon of *Ludgate*, that ſo he may be the better prepared to act his part, and defend himſelf from the abuſes that any one may offer him, if ever he ſhould be ſo unhappy to experience a ſtate of Confinement in that, (abating its large extent, *&c.*) now the worſt of Priſons: For (as Matters are now ordered) unleſs a Man has Relations or Friends abroad to help him, he may ſtarve therein, tho' there be ſuch large Legacies

and Incomes by the Boxes and otherways, amounting (as the preſent Steward has been heard to declare over his Cups) to 500 *l. per Annum*, which (if true) it is but reaſonable he ſhould be obliged to account for. Nor is it done in prejudice to ſuch as are immediately concerned as Officers within or without; for would they keep within the bounds of their lawful Salaries and honeſt Perquiſites, which are a ſufficient Competency, there could be no occaſion of complaint. But for a Steward, whoſe Salary and due Perquiſites amount not to above ſeven or eight Shilling *per* Week (a tolerable Subſiſtance for a Man in Confinement, and what ſeveral others are as worthy of in their turns (the Election being ordered to be every Month) as he, who by the Deputy Keeper's Management, is like to continue *durante bene placito*) to live like an *Epicure*, frequenting Taverns to unſeaſonable Hours in the Night, and drinking to exceſs when within, whilſt divers Poor Men and Women are ready to ſtarve for want, cannot but be taken notice of by any one, who has the leaſt Commiſeration for his fellow Creatures. And as for the Officers without Door, I ſhall adviſe my fellow Citizens, to exert themſelves to the utmoſt in the lawful aſſerting their Rights and Privileges

vileges againſt their unjuſt Uſurpations, ſince our Anceſtors have taken ſo great care to ſecure them for the eaſe and benefit of the Poor Priſoners of *Ludgate*, who, if they had any Aſſiſtance from Authority, and were not wanting to themſelves, need not be oppreſs'd any longer, or inſulted by ſuch as are meer miniſterial Officers, and appointed to ſerve and attend the unhappy Freemen of this Honourable City, that are there confin'd, and who get their Bread by ſuch Poor Men's Misfortunes.

Perhaps it may be expected, that the Names and Number of Priſoners might be found in this Treatiſe; for the firſt, the Author deſires to be excuſed, as not being willing to expoſe them, hoping ſome of them may have the good Hap to out-live their Misfortunes, and make ſome Figure in the World again. And as to their Number, the coming in of ſome and going out of others happening very frequently, makes it very uncertain, but generally ſpeaking, there have not been fewer for theſe two or three Years, than 70 at a time, (there being computed to be above Hundred in the Year 1710. when there died about Thirty of a raging Fever) ſome of whom have been there, fourteen

or fifteen, ſome ſeven, ſome five, and ſeveral of three or four Years, whoſe Chamber Rent (generally ſpeaking) at the Rate of 14 *d. per* Week, amounts to much more than their Debts: Many being confin'd there on Executions in the Court of Requeſts, which never exceed Forty Shillings, and theſe owing to Tally-men, whoſe Method of dealing is ſo unfair and unjuſtifiable, that many Men are drawn into the Snare before they are aware; and being Poor are not able to extricate themſelves by ſtanding a Tryal, but muſt languiſh in Confinement, while their Wives and Children become a Charge to the Pariſh, who (Poor ſilly Women) have been drawn in to deal with them for themſelves, or paſs their Word for ſome of their Neighbours, (nay the Tally-man's taking their Names is ſufficient) unknown to their Husbands; who, upon the leaſt deficiency of Payment, are arreſted, and for want of Bail confin'd for a Debt they never contracted, and many times knew nothing of: Whence there is no Redemption, till ſuch time as the Keeper has procured Money enough by Petitioning Companies, *&c.* to ſatisfy himſelf and the Tally-men, who are ſuppoſed to hold a Correſpondence with all the Goal Keepers in

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and about this City for that end: So that the Money given by Legacies to Prisons is for the most part shared between them. For it is presumed, that (upon enquiry) two thirds of the Prisoners in and about this City, will be found to be confined upon the account of Tally-men, who were they not in expectation to recover their Money by such Methods, would never venture to trust such Poor People as they do. A Matter worthy the Consideration of the Legislature, in regard it brings so many to beggary.

And now having given an account of this Prison, and the lamentable Circumstances of those confined therein, I shall add a few Lines by way of Appeal to Creditors in general. I know Gentlemen, you will argue that the Law is on your side, and that you cannot afford to lose your Debts; and perhaps farther, that if the Persons you prosecute had been careful and diligent in their respective Employs, you might have had no need to have used such Severity. For such indeed I can pretend to make but small Apology, but wish with all my Heart, that such Laws as are already in force might be put in Execution, and where they are deficient others might be made, to prevent those excesses,

too

too many are inclined to, whereby they waſte that which ſhould not only ſupport their Families, but become uncapable to ſatisfy their juſt Debts; ſuch Debtors there are, and to ſuch a Priſon is a due Puniſhment: Yet this I have to ſay, till ſuch time as the Wiſdom of the Nation ſhall think fit to make a Law for them to work out their Debt, you will reap no advantage by their Confinement, and their Families becoming a publick Charge, you muſt in ſome Meaſure be contributory thereto. There are others who for want of ſucceſs at ſometimes, and by reaſon of Caſualties at other times, are become Inſolvent, and who, if they had time allowed them, might probably retrieve their Misfortunes, and would be ſo honeſt as to pay the utmoſt Farthing when able. To uſe ſuch with rigour, is not only far from doing as you would be done by, but inhumane and imprudent. For if a Man is not able to pay, the World muſt needs conclude you revengeful, to diſ-able him by Confinement, of ſupporting himſelf or Family, or making you Satisfaction, by doing of which you deprive the Commonwealth of a Member, who might ſome way or other be ſerviceable in his Generation. And as for the Imprudence of ſuch

Proceeding, I appeal to all Creditors that have tried the experience, whether one in Forty, after expoſing the Poor Debtor to be worried, firſt by Serjeants, Bailiffs, &c. and then letting him be a Year or two under the Paws of their Brother Cannibals the Goal-Keeper's, did ever recover their whole Debt.

There has been of late Years (almoſt every Seſſion) application made to the Parliament, for the Releaſe of Inſolvent Debtors, and indeed it would be a great Act of Charity; but till the fury of revengeful Creditors be reſtrained, it can only affect the Poor Perſons at preſent in durance, for the Goals will fill again in a little time. Nor does the barbarous Oppreſſion of Goal Keepers a little contribute thereto: For if that were more look'd into, and Debtors taken care for as the Law provides, they would be the better able to ſtand the ſhock of their Creditor's revengeful Humour, who finding they could not have their Will to ſtarve a Man, would comply with ſuch Terms as he might probably perform, not bare Confinement, but making Dice of his Bones, being what too many Creditors propoſe to themſelves. And this may ſerve for an Anſwer to an Objection, ſometime made to the Author,

that

that if Prisons were regulated, and the Prisoners enjoy'd the Benefits the Law has provided, a Prison would not be Punishment enough; but from such conclusions

Libera nos Domine.

MVSEVM BRITAN NICVM

FINIS.